

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRASIL 05564 262128Z

73

ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 INR-11 IO-14 MED-03 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCI-06 USIA-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00

AID-20 DODE-00 SCS-03 PPT-02 ST-01 SSO-00 /107 W

----- 005899

P 261855Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4703

CDC ATLANTA GEORGIA PRIORITY

USPHS WASHDC PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 5564

FOL TEL RCVD FROM SAO PAULO JULY 26, 1974 SENT IMMEDIATE BRASILIA
INFO RIO DE JANEIRO BEING RPTD FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAO PAULO 1628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, BR

SUBJECT: SAO PAULO MENINGITIS EPIDEMIC

REF: SAO PAULO 1620 AND 1615 (NOTAL)

1. RE CURRENT MENINGITIS OUTBREAK IN GREATER SAO PAULO, CONGEN
CONTACTED MERCK, SHARPE AND DOHME (MSD), DEVELOPERS OF
TYPE C VACCINE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT CURRENT SITUATION
IS AS FOLLOWS (MSD SOURCE CONTACTED WAS MSD'S MARKETING MANAGER,
IN BRAZIL, MR. DE SANTIS, WHO WAS ONLY HIGH-LEVEL COMPANY
REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE).

A. OITBREAK FAR MORE WIDESPREAD THAN REPORTED IN PRESS. AS
MUCH AS 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL SAO PAULO POPULATION PRESENTLY MAY
BE CARRIERS OF THE VIRUS; B. BOTH TYPE A AND C PREVALENT; C. MSD
HAS ORDERS FOR TOTAL OF 3.9 MILLION DOSES ON VACCINE FOR DELIVERY IN
SAO PAULO AND BRASILIA. BY WORKING TRIPLE SHIFTS IN US PLANT,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRASIL 05564 262128Z

ORDERS CAN BE FILLED BY END OF YEAR, ALTHOUGH IT DOUBTFUL ANY RPT

ANY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS THIS TYPE VACCINE COULD ARRIVE IN BRAZIL PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1, CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS. OF ABOVE DOSAGE TOTAL, CITY OF SAO PAULO HAS REQUESTED 3 MILLION, BRASILIA 300,000 AND PRIVATE INDUSTRIES IN SAO PAULO AREA ABOUT 400,000, WITH BALANCE ORDERED BY OTHER COMMUNITIES ON SMALLER SCALE; D. TYPE C VACCINE PRESENTLY CLEARED BY FDA FOR ADMINISTERING ONLY RPT ONLY TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL IN US AND ABROAD. IT NOT RPT NOT LICENSED FOR GENERAL USE IN US. GOB HOWEVER HAS ACCEPTED RISK OF USING THIS VACCINE IN SPITE OF LACK OF FULL FDA CLEARANCE.

2. MSD CALLED THIS WEEK BY DR. WASHINGTON LUIZ, APPARENTLY A TOP ADVISOR TO THE GOB MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN BRASILIA, WHO ACCUSED BOTH M D/BRAZIL AND DR. MAURICE HILLEMANN (THE DISCOVERER OF THE VACCINE) OF QTE IRRESPONSIBLE CONDUCT UNQTE IN ALLOWING EPIDEMIC TO PROGRESS SO FAR (SIC). IN RESPONSE, MSD TOLD CONGEN THAT IT HAD BEEN WARNING GOB SINCE LAST YEAR THAT MENINGITIS RUNS IN 5-6 YEAR CYCLES, AND THAT IT WOULD QTE NOT GO AWAY UNQTE. MSD SOURCE CLAIMED THAT GOB QTE PUSSYFOOTING UNQTE LED TO UNREASONABLE DELAYS AND NOW THAT CRISIS HAS HIT, QTE THEY HAVE PUSHED PANIC BUTTON UNQTE.

3. AT REQUEST CONGEN, FRENCH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR INQUIRED AT RHODIA (DISTRIBUTOR IN BRAZIL FOR MERYIEUX RPT MERYIEUX, THE FRENCH PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY WHICH, AMONGST OTHER PRODUCTS, MANUFACTURES TYPE A VACCINE) IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN CURRENT STATUS RE THEIR VACCINE. RHODIA STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT HANDLE DISTRIBUTION HUMAN I.E. TYPE A VACCINE IN BRAZIL AND THAT THIS WOULD BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN GOB AND FRENCH FIRM. PRESIDENT OF MERYIEUX ARRIVING RIO JULY 25 PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS ISSUE. FRENCH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ADDED THAT GOB HAD NOT MADE ANY ALLEGATIONS TO RHODIA RE ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR EPIDEMIC SINCE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES RHODIA NOT INVOLVED WITH THIS VACCINE. CONGEN THUS UNABLE DEVELOP ANY INFORMATION HERE RE POTENTIAL AVAILABILITY TYPE A VACCINE OF FRENCH ORIGIN. (FYI. FRENCH CONGEN SAO PAULO HAS RECEIVED TYPE A VACCINE FOR ITS OWN USE AND FRENCH CONGEN PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN VACCINATED).

4. MSD BELIEVES THAT IF 3 MILLION DOSES CAN BE ADMINISTERED IN SAO PAULO BEFORE END OF YEAR, SITUATION FOR TYPE C DISEASE MAY BE CONTROLLABLE BY ONSET COLD WEATHER NEXT MAY/JUNE. BY THEN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRASIL 05564 262128Z

ADDITIONAL SIX MILLION DOSES WOULD BE AVAILABLE. LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED, HOWEVER, IN GIVING TYPE AND TYPE C VACCINES SEPARATELY WOULD BE IMMENSE. ACCORDING MSD SOURCE, FDA CURRENTLY NOT WILLING APPROVE MSD REQUEST TO COMBINE TWO VACCINES INTO ONE SHOT.

5. MSD PROMISED KEEP CONGEN INFORMED ON PROGRESS OF VACCINATION CAMPAIGN, AND REPORT IMMEDIATELY ANY ATTEMPT BY GOB

TO USE US FIRM AS SCAPEGOAT FOR CURRENT EPIDEMIC.

6. REQUEST YOU REPEAT DEPARTMENT AND ASK DEPARTMENT AT ITS
DISCRETION PASS CDC.

WALLACE

UNQUOTE

CRIMMINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EPIDEMICS, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, VACCINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL05564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740203-0894
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740716/aaaaamxr.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION HEW
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAO PAULO 1620 AND 1615 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <17 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAO PAULO MENINGITIS EPIDEMIC
TAGS: SWEL, BR
To: STATE USPHS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005